

**Immunotoxins, Comprising an Internalizing Antibody, Directed Against
Malignant and Normal Cells**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

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[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/071,672, filed May 1, 1998, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/046,895, filed May 5, 1997, and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/949,758, filed October 14, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,083,477, issued July 4, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/028,430, filed October 17, 1996.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Toxic enzymes from plants and bacteria such as ricin, diphtheria toxin and *Pseudomonas* toxin have been coupled to antibodies or receptor binding ligands to generate cell-type-specific-killing reagents (Youle, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 77:5483 (1980); Gilliland, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 77:4539 (1980); Krolick, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 77:5419 (1980)). Regardless of the fact that the cell-recognition moiety is not always an antibody, these directed toxins are generally known as immunotoxins. These hybrid proteins kill cells which express the receptor or cell surface marker that the antibody or ligand portion of the molecule recognizes.

[0003] Under appropriate conditions, depending on the particular receptor or cell marker, the toxin enters the cytosol, inactivates the protein synthesis machinery and causes death of the target cell.

Immunotoxins, which have been shown to be highly cytotoxic to cancer cells growing in cell culture and in animal models, demonstrate the potential of these reagents to treat blood and lymph borne malignancies which, because of their dissemination are not treatable by traditional surgical techniques, as well as solid tumors in restricted compartments such as the intraperitoneal cavity (reviewed in Griffin, *et al.*, IMMUNOTOXINS, p 433, Boston/Dordrecht/Lancaster, Kluwer Academic Publishers, (1988); Vitetta, *et al.*, *Science* **238**:1098 (1987); Fitzgerald, *et al.*, *J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.* **81**:1455 (1989)). Traditional chemotherapies, while being effective in the treatment of some cancerous conditions, exhibit undesired side effects due to the systemic toxicity of the chemotherapeutic compounds.

[0004] An ideal candidate for cancer therapy, therefore, would be an immunotoxin that would selectively be cytotoxic to cancer cells yet remain harmless to non-cancerous cells of the patient. Utilization of this type of anti-tumor therapy, however, has been stymied by the development of immune responses in patients to foreign proteins which comprise the immunotoxins. Immune responses against murine monoclonal antibodies (Sawler, *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* **135**:1530 (1985); Schroff, *et al.*, *Cancer Res.* **45**:879 (1985)) and anti-toxin antibodies have been detected in both animals and humans treated with immunotoxins (Rybak, *et al.*, *Immunol. and Allergy Clinics of North America* **11**(2):359 (1991); Harkonen, *et al.*, *Cancer Res.* **47**:1377 (1987); Hertler, A. in IMMUNOTOXINS p. 475, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston/Dordrecht/Lancaster (1988)). Advances in humanization techniques have alleviated some of the immunogenicity associated with the antibody portion of immunotoxins (Bird, *et al.*, *Science* **242**:423 (1988); Huston, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **85**:5879 (1988); Ward,

et al., Nature **341**:544 (1989); and Jones, *et al., Nature* **314**:522 (1986)). However, no solution has been found to counter the immunogenicity of the toxic moiety other than immunosuppression of the patients (Khazaeli, *et al., Proceedings of AACR* **29**:418 (1988)). Thus, there has been a continuing need for methods and compositions that would reduce the immunogenicity of the toxic moiety of immunotoxins yet retain the ability to selectively kill cells having a given surface marker.

[0005] Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas fall mostly under the generic rubric of B-cell lymphomas and can either be a disseminated or a solid tumor within the lymph system. Radiolabeled humanized murine antibodies which have been raised against CD22 (LymphoCide™), a lineage-restricted surface marker on malignant and normal B cells, are currently in clinical trials as a treatment for B-cell lymphomas and certain autoimmune diseases which can be affected by selecting depleting the normal B-cell population that produces the autoantibodies involved in the pathogenesis of these autoimmune diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus and Sjögren's syndrome. See also, Amlot, *et al., Blood* **82**:2624-2633 (1993); Sausville, *et al., Blood* **85**:3457-3465 (1995); Grossbard, *et al., Blood* **81**:2263-2271 (1993); Grossbard, *et al., Clin. Oncol.* **11**:726-737 (1993). To date, some antitumor responses have been noted but immunotoxin-mediated toxicity to normal tissue often prevented dosing at therapeutic levels. In addition to CD22, several other B-cell-specific antigens such as CD 19 and CD40 have been targeted by immunotoxins made with plant toxins such as ricin A-chain and bacterial toxins, such as *Pseudomonas* exotoxin A (PE). Uckun, *et al., Blood* **79**:2201-2214 (1992); Ghetie, *et al., Cancer Res.* **51**:5876-5880 (1991); Francisco, *et al., Cancer Res.* **55**:3099-3 104 (1995).

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[0006] The cytotoxicity of RNase A toward tumor cells is well documented from studies performed in the 1960s and 1970s. Early work is reviewed in Roth, *Cancer Res.* **23**:657 (1963). The relevance of these early studies has been sustained by the discovery that an anti-tumor protein from oocytes of *Rana pipiens* is homologous to bovine pancreatic RNase A (Ardelt, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* **256**:245 (1991)). P-30 protein (and referred to herein as the onc protein) was isolated from extracts of *Rana pipiens* early embryos based upon anti-proliferative/cytotoxic effects toward cancer cells in vitro (Darzynkiewicz, et al., *Cell Tissue Kinet.* **21**:169 (1988); Mikulski, et al., *Cell Tissue Kinet.* **23**:237 (1990)) and in animal models (Mikulski, et al., *J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.* **82**:151 (1990)). Phase III human clinical trials of the onc protein in patients with a variety of solid tumors are currently in progress.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In one embodiment, the present invention relates to cytotoxic reagents comprising an antibody and a moiety having ribonucleolytic activity derived from a non-human ribonuclease. The inventor has found that these particular immunotoxins had *highly surprising properties* as they were up to *2000 fold more active* against malignant B cells than their human RNase counterparts or than the toxin itself. Further, as will be described in more detail below, their use when administered *in vivo* against disseminated tumors, resulted in dramatically lowered side effects. These highly effective, but apparently non-toxic, immunotoxins directed against such ubiquitous diseases as B cell lymphomas present a new and exciting therapeutic option for patients suffering from such diseases.

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with a selective immunotoxin of the present invention under conditions such that a monoclonal antibody binds to a surface or intracellular marker in or on the normal cell, thereby causing the toxic ribonuclease to kill the cell.

[0013] Various other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Figure 1 indicates that ONCONASE® is more cytotoxic to HUT 102 T cell lymphoma cells (which do not bear the CD22 marker recognized by LL2) than the immunotoxin, LL2-ONCONASE®.

[0015] Figure 2 demonstrates the superior cytotoxicity of LL2-ONCONASE® to Burkitt Lymphoma cell lines when compared to ONCONASE® alone.

[0016] Figure 3 indicates that ONCONASE® conjugated to antibodies directed against CD22 is more inhibitory of protein synthesis than EDN conjugated to anti-CD22 antibodies. EDN is a human non-toxic RNase as described in the text.

[0017] Figure 4 indicates that ONCONASE® is more inhibitory of protein synthesis when conjugated to antibodies compared to human pancreatic RNase.

[0018] Figures 5A and 5B demonstrate that ¹²⁵I labeled LL2-ONCONASE® is not degraded by the lysosomes of Daudi cells as rapidly

as the LL2 antibody or the LL2-EDN immunotoxin. Fig. 5A shows the percentage of RNase material retained in the cells and Fig. 5B shows the percentage of RNase material degraded and released into the supernatant.

[0019] Figure 6 demonstrates that LL2 antibody diminishes the cytotoxic effect of LL2-ONCONASE®. It is believed that LL2 competes for binding to CD22 with LL2-ONCONASE® and prevents the internalization of the ONCONASE®, thus reducing cytotoxicity.

[0020] Figure 7 is a survival graph showing LL2-ONCONASE® protected SCID mice from B cell lymphoma. 5×10^6 Daudi cells were implanted intraperitoneally in mice. 24 hours later, the mice were treated intravenously with 500 µg of the indicated compound.

[0021] Figure 8 is a survival graph showing that LL2-ONCONASE® completely protected SCID mice from an intraperitoneal implantation of 2×10^6 of Daudi cells. The mice were treated 24 hours after implantation with 500 µg of indicated compounds; 100 µg every day for 5 days.

[0022] Figure 9 represents the decreased toxicity of the LL2-ONCONASE® immunotoxin when compared to ONCONASE® alone and IT-dgRTA (RFB4-deglycosylated Ricin A chain). The drugs were administered every 2 hours, 4X/day for 5 days. The arrows indicate the days the mice with each respective treatment were found dead, i.e., the mouse treated with 30 mg/kg ONCONASE® was found dead on day 4 and the mouse treated with 50 mg/kg IT-dgRTA was found dead on day 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0023] In one embodiment, the present invention relates to cytotoxic reagents comprising an antibody and a moiety having ribonucleolytic activity derived from a non-human ribonuclease. The inventor has found that these particular immunotoxins had *highly surprising properties* as they were up to *2000 fold more active* against malignant B cells than their human RNase counterparts or than the toxin itself. Further, as will be described in more detail below, their use when administered *in vivo* against disseminated tumors, resulted in dramatically lowered side effects. These highly effective, but apparently non-toxic, immunotoxins directed against such ubiquitous diseases as B cell lymphomas present a new and exciting therapeutic option for patients suffering from such diseases. Another embodiment is a cytotoxic reagent comprising an internalizing antibody and a moiety having ribonucleolytic activity, wherein the internalizing antibody binds to a lineage-dependent antigen or an antigen associated with cancer cells.

[0024] In studies detailed below, a human non-toxic ribonuclease conjugated to antibodies directed against antigens such as CD19, CD22, CD33, CD40, CD74, MUC1, IL-15, HLA-DR, EGP-1, EGP-2, prostatic acid phosphatase, G250, prostate-specific membrane antigen, prostate-specific antigen, prostatic acid phosphatase antigen, or placental alkaline phosphatase antigen, is shown to be far superior to other immunotoxins. The ribonuclease-based immunotoxins are powerful agents against hematological tumors, such as B-cell lymphomas and leukemias, T-cell lymphomas and leukemias, myeloid leukemias, multiple myeloma, and other solid malignancies, such as neuroblastoma, malignant melanoma, breast, lung, ovarian, prostatic, renal, and pancreatic carcinomas. They

also can be used to treat pathological conditions due to ectopic or aberrant normal cells, such as B- and T-cells involved in autoimmune diseases, endometriosis, ectopic thymus gland, and for the ablation of bone marrow cells prior to bone marrow transplantation.

Definitions

[0025] The term "antibody" refers to polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies and derivatives thereof (including chimeric, humanized and human antibodies), including an entire immunoglobulin or antibody or any functional fragment of an immunoglobulin molecule which binds to the target antigen and or combinations thereof. Examples of such functional entities include complete antibody molecules, antibody fragments, such as F_v , single chain F_v , complementarity determining regions (CDRs), V_L (light chain variable region), V_H (heavy chain variable region), Fab, $F(ab')_2$ and any combination of those or any other functional portion of an immunoglobulin peptide capable of binding to target antigen.

[0026] Antibodies exist, *e.g.*, as intact immunoglobulins or as a number of well characterized fragments produced by digestion with various peptidases. Thus, for example, pepsin digests an antibody below the disulfide linkages in the hinge region to produce $F(ab')_2$ a dimer of Fab which itself is a light chain joined to V_H-CH_1 by a disulfide bond. The $F(ab')_2$ may be reduced under mild conditions to break the disulfide linkage in the hinge region, thereby converting the $F(ab')_2$ dimer into an Fab^1 monomer. The Fab^1 monomer is essentially an Fab with part of the hinge region (see, FUNDAMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY, 3RD ED., W.E. Paul, ed, Raven Press, N.Y. (1993)). While various antibody fragments are defined in terms of the digestion of an intact antibody, one of skill will appreciate that such fragments may be synthesized *de novo* either

chemically or by utilizing recombinant DNA methodology. Thus, the term antibody, as used herein, also includes antibody fragments either produced by the modification of whole antibodies or those synthesized *de novo* using recombinant DNA methodologies.

[0027] For this invention, an antibody is "reactive with" or "binds to" an antigen if it interacts with the antigen. This interaction is analogous to a chemical reaction in which two reactants come together to form a product. In the case of the antibody-antigen interaction, the product of the interaction is an antibody-antigen complex. The preferred antigens which bind to immunoglobulins of the invention include CD19, CD22, CD33, CD40, CD74, MUC1, IL-15, HLA-DR, EGP-1, EGP-2, G250 antigen, prostate-specific membrane antigen, prostate-specific antigen, prostatic acid phosphatase antigen, and placental alkaline phosphatase.

[0028] For this invention, the term "internalizing antibody" is defined as one wherein the antigen to which the antibody binds causes the antibody to internalize into a cell. The antigen (or epitope of the antigen) targeted can be on the surface of the cell or inside the cell (intracellular).

[0029] The term "binding specificity," "specifically binds to an antibody" or "specifically immunoreactive with," when referring to a protein or carbohydrate, refers to a binding reaction which is determinative of the presence of the protein or carbohydrate in the presence of a heterogeneous population of proteins and other biologics. Thus, under designated immunoassay conditions, the specified antibodies bind to a particular protein or carbohydrate and do not bind in a significant amount to other proteins or carbohydrates present in the sample. Specific binding to an antibody under such conditions may require an antibody

selected for its specificity towards a particular protein or carbohydrate. For example, antibodies raised to the CD22 antigen may be selected to provide antibodies that are specifically immunoreactive with CD22 protein and not with other proteins. A variety of immunoassay formats may be used to select antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a particular protein or carbohydrate. For example, solid-phase ELISA immunoassays are routinely used to select antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a protein or carbohydrate. See Harlow & Lane, *ANTIBODIES, A LABORATORY MANUAL*, Cold Spring Harbor Publication, New York (1988) for a description of immunoassay formats and conditions that can be used to determine specific immunoreactivity.

[0030] The term "humanized" refers to an antibody wherein the constant regions have at least about 80% or greater homology to human immunoglobulin. Additionally, some of the nonhuman, such as murine, variable region amino acid residues can be modified to contain amino acid residues of human origin.

[0031] Humanized antibodies have been referred to as "reshaped" antibodies. Manipulation of the complementarity-determining regions (CDR) is a way of achieving humanized antibodies. See, for example, Jones, *et al.*, *Nature* **321**:522 (1988) and Riechmann, *et al.*, *Nature* **332**:323 (1988), both of which are incorporated by reference herein. For a review article concerning humanized antibodies, see Winter & Milstein, *Nature* **349**:293 (1991), incorporated by reference herein.

[0032] The terms "isolated" or "substantially purified," when applied to a nucleic acid or protein, denotes that the nucleic acid or protein is essentially free of other cellular components with which it is associated in

the natural state. It is preferably in a homogeneous state, although it can be in either a dry or aqueous solution. Purity and homogeneity are typically determined using analytical chemistry techniques such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or high performance liquid chromatography. A protein which is the predominant species present in a preparation is substantially purified.

[0033] The term "moiety having ribonucleolytic activity" refers to any compound which can cleave ribonucleotides, including ribonucleases and active fragments and derivatives thereof. Preferred moieties having ribonucleolytic activity are derived from non-human ribonucleases, especially *Rana pipiens*, and include rapLR1. Also included are onconases ("onc proteins" which are defined below). The term "purified" denotes that a nucleic acid or protein gives rise to essentially one-band in an electrophoretic gel. Particularly, it means that the nucleic acid or protein is at least 85% pure, more preferably at least 95% pure, and most preferably at least 99% pure. The term "nucleic acid" refers to a deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide polymer in either single-or double-stranded form, and unless otherwise limited, would encompass known analogs of natural nucleotides that can function in a similar manner as naturally occurring nucleotides.

[0034] The term "joined" in the context of the immunotoxins of this invention encompasses the linking of moieties (typically an antibody and a toxin) through covalent bonding, including disulfide bonding; hydrogen bonding; electrostatic bonding; recombinant fusion; and conformational bonding, *e.g.*, antibody-antigen, and biotin-avidin associations.

[0035] The terms "measurable ribonucleolytic activity" or "significant ribonucleolytic activity" refer to a molecule which has an IC₅₀ of less than 40 ng/mL when added to a rabbit reticulocyte lysate assay wherein protein synthesis is inhibited as measured by the incorporation of [³⁵S]methionine into acid precipitable protein. IC₅₀ is the concentration of protein necessary to inhibit protein synthesis by 50% in the assay. The lysate assay may be done as described in the Promega lysate assay kit which is commercially available from Promega Corporation, Madison, WI. Ribonucleolytic activity using high molecular weight RNA and tRNA is determined at 37°C through the formation of perchloric acid soluble nucleotides following published protocols (Newton, D.L., *et al. Biochemistry* **35**:545-553 (1996)). With poly(A,C) UpG and poly U, ribonucleolytic activity is assayed according to DePrisco, *et al.*, and Libonati & Floridi (DePrisco, R., *et al. Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* **788**:356-363 (1984); Libonati, M. *et al. European J. Biochem.* **8**:81-87 (1969)). Activity is assayed by measuring the increase with time in absorbance at 260 nm. Incubation mixtures (1 mL of 10 mM imidazole, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 6.5 or pH 7) contain substrate and appropriate amounts of enzyme solution at 25°C. The *in vitro* translation assay (St. Clair, D.K., *et al. Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **84**:8330-8334 (1987)) and the cell viability assays using the (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; Thiazolyl blue; MTT) (Mossman, T. *J. Immunol. Methods* **65**:55-63 (1983)) are performed as previously described (Pearson, J.W., *et al. J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.* **83**:1386-1391 (1991)).

[0036] The term "nucleic acid encoding" or "nucleic acid sequence encoding" refers to a nucleic acid which directs the expression of a specific protein or peptide. The nucleic acid sequences include both the

DNA strand sequence that is transcribed into RNA and the RNA sequence that is translated into protein. The nucleic acid sequences include both full length nucleic acid sequences as well as shorter sequences derived from the full length sequences. It is understood that a particular nucleic acid sequence includes the degenerate codons of the native sequence or sequences which may be-introduced to provide codon preference in a specific host cell. The nucleic acid includes both the sense and antisense strands as either individual single strands or in the duplex form.

[0037] The term "onc protein" refers to an RNase A derived from *Rana pipiens* that was originally designated P-30 protein and first described in Darzynkiewicz, *et al.*, *Cell Tissue Kinet.* **21**:169 (1988), such as the protein having the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO:1. A description of this protein can be found in U.S. Patent No. 5,559,212. The term "native onc protein" refers to the protein in its native form, purified from *Rana pipiens* oocytes. The term "recombinant onc protein" refers to the protein produced by recombinant means. Preferred embodiments of these recombinant proteins and their nucleic sequences are described in the published international application WO97/31116. It is understood that onc proteins also encompass modifications in both the nucleic acid and the amino acid sequences but have measurable ribonucleolytic activity.

[0038] An "onc-derived" amino acid sequence includes one that contains at least one string of six contiguous amino acids identical to a contiguous sequence of six amino acids selected from the group of sequences beginning at amino acid positions 1 (with Glu replacing pyroGlu), 2,3,4,5,6,7, 8,11,12,13,14,15,16, 18, 19,20,22,23,24,25,26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41,42,43,44, 45, 46, 47, 50, 52, 54, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72,

73, 74, 76, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 95, or 96 of the onc amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1).

[0039] The term "pharmaceutical composition" refers to formulations of various preparations. Parenteral formulations are known and are preferred for use in the invention. The formulations containing therapeutically effective amounts of the immunotoxins are either sterile liquid solutions, liquid suspensions or lyophilized versions and optionally contain stabilizers or excipients. Lyophilized compositions are reconstituted with suitable diluents, *e.g.*, water for injection, saline, 0.3% glycine and the like, at a level of about from 0.01 mg/kg of host body weight to 10 mg/kg or more.

[0040] Typically, the pharmaceutical compositions containing the immunotoxins are administered in a therapeutically effective dose over either a single day or several days by daily intravenous infusion.

[0041] The immunotoxins of this invention may be administered systemically by injection, most preferably intravenously, but also intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intrathecally, intraperitoneally, into vascular spaces, or into joints, *e.g.*, intraarticular injection. The dose will be dependent upon the properties of the immunotoxin employed, *e.g.*, its activity and biological half-life, the concentration of the immunotoxin in the formulation, the site and rate of dosage, the clinical tolerance of the patient involved, the extent of cancer afflicting the patient and the like as is well within the skill of the physician.

[0042] The immunotoxin of the present invention may be administered in solution. The pH of the solution should be in the range of pH 5 to 9.5, preferably pH 6.5 to 7.5. The immunotoxins or derivatives thereof should

be in a solution having a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable buffer such as phosphate, tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane-HCl or citrate and the like. Buffer concentrations should be in the range of 1 to 100 mM. The solution of the immunoglobulin may also contain a salt, such as sodium chloride or potassium chloride in a concentration of 50 to 150 mM. An effective amount of a stabilizing agent such as albumin, a globulin, a detergent, a gelatin, a protamine or a salt of protamine may also be included and may be added to a solution containing the immunotoxin or to the composition from which the solution is prepared. As described below, the immunotoxin may be formulated with a polymer (such as polyethylene glycol (PEG) or dextran), which can be used to increase the biological half-life of the immunotoxin, thus resulting in a more extended period of activity. Systemic administration of the immunotoxin is typically made every two to three days or once a week if a humanized or human form of the antibody is used. Alternatively, daily administration is useful. Usually administration is by either intramuscular injection or intravascular infusion.

[0043] Administration may also be intranasal or by other nonparenteral routes. The immunotoxin may also be administered via microspheres, liposomes or other microparticulate delivery systems placed in certain tissues including blood.

[0044] The immunotoxin may also be administered by aerosol to achieve localized delivery to the lungs. This is accomplished by preparing an aqueous aerosol, liposomal preparation or solid particles containing or derivatives thereof. A nonaqueous (*e.g.*, fluorocarbon propellant) suspension could be used. Sonic nebulizers preferably are used in preparing aerosols. Sonic nebulizers minimize exposing the antibody or

derivatives thereof to shear, which can result in degradation of the immunotoxin.

[0045] Ordinarily, an aqueous aerosol is made by formulating an aqueous solution or suspension of the immunotoxin together with conventional pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and stabilizers. The carriers and stabilizers will vary depending upon the requirements for the particular immunotoxin, but typically include nonionic surfactants (TWEEN-20 OR -80®, PLURONIC-F128 OR -67®, or polyethylene glycol), innocuous proteins like serum albumin, or sorbitan esters, oleic acid, lecithin, amino acids such as glycine, buffers, salts, sugars or sugar alcohols. The formulations will be sterile. Aerosols generally will be prepared from isotonic solutions.

[0046] The terms "recombinant DNA," "recombinant nucleic acid" or "recombinantly produced DNA" refer to DNA which has been isolated from its native or endogenous source and modified either chemically or enzymatically by adding, deleting or altering naturally-occurring flanking or internal nucleotides. Flanking nucleotides are those nucleotides which are either upstream or downstream from the described sequence or subsequence of nucleotides, while internal nucleotides are those nucleotides which occur within the described sequence or subsequence.

[0047] The term "recombinant means" refers to techniques where proteins are isolated, the cDNA sequence coding the protein identified and inserted into an expression vector. The vector is then introduced into a cell and the cell expresses the protein. Recombinant means also encompasses the ligation of coding or promoter DNA from different

sources into one vector for expression of a fusion protein, constitutive expression of a protein, or inducible expression of a protein.

[0048] The terms "recombinant protein," "recombinantly produced protein" or "recombinantly produced immunotoxin" refer to a peptide or protein produced using non-native cells that do not have an endogenous copy of DNA able to express the protein. The cells produce the protein because they have been genetically altered by the introduction of the appropriate nucleic acid sequence. The recombinant protein will not be found in association with proteins and other subcellular components normally associated with the cells producing the protein.

[0049] The term "selective cytotoxic reagent" refers to a compound that when added to a population of different cells, *e.g.*, within an organism, kills one type of cell in the population based on some physical or biological characteristic of the cell, *i.e.*, a surface ligand or marker to which the cytotoxic reagent binds and then becomes internalized.

[0050] The term "single chain antibody" refers to an antibody wherein the genetic information encoding the functional fragments of the antibody are located in a single contiguous length of DNA. For a thorough description of single chain antibodies, see Bire, *et al.*, *Science* **242**:423 (1988) and Huston, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **85**:5879 (1988).

[0051] The term "surface marker" (or "target") refers to a protein, carbohydrate, or glycoprotein present on the surface of a cell. Different types of cells express different cell surface markers and therefore cells can be identified by the presence of a cell surface marker. For example, malignant B cells overexpress CD22. Thus, the binding of an antibody

that recognizes CD22 identifies that cell as a B cell. CD74, described below, is an example of a cell surface marker found on B cells, T cells, macrophages, and a select group of malignant cells. After targeting to the surface antigen, the complex internalizes. However, certain appropriate antigens for this invention may be on the inside of the cell membrane, thus facilitating in the internalization of the immunotoxin. Such targets may be distinct antigens or epitopes of antigens that may be extended into the membrane, on the outer portion of the cell membrane, or on the inside portion of the membrane. The antigen or epitope may also be restricted to a location within the cell.

[0052] Among various uses of the immunotoxins of the present invention are included a variety of disease conditions caused by specific human cells that may be eliminated by the toxic action of the protein. One preferred application for the immunoconjugates of the invention is the treatment of malignant B cells expressing CD22. Exemplary malignant diseases of B cells include acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), chronic B-lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL), Burkitt's lymphoma, AIDS-associated and follicular lymphomas (e.g., non-Hodgkin's lymphomas), and hairy cell leukemias. Immunotoxins described herein which are directed to CD74 are useful for inhibition and treatment of lymphomas, melanoma, neuroblastoma and myeloma cells. CD33 antigen is associated with acute and chronic myeloid leukemias. G250 antigen is associated with renal cell carcinoma. MUC1 antigens are associated with diverse solid tumors, particularly pancreatic cancer when the PAM4 antibody is used. PSMA (prostate-specific membrane antigen), PSA (prostate-specific antigen, and prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) antigen are associate with prostatic cancer, and may present with outer cell membrane, intramembrane, and inner cell membrane, as well as intracellular, epitopes. Still other

applications involve depletion of normal cells bearing the appropriate target antigens, such as B-cells and/or T-cells involved in autoimmune diseases, endometrial cells involved in endometriosis, ectopic thymus and parathyroid cells, as well as bone marrow cells which are ablated as part of the process of treating malignancies of the bone marrow, after which regrafting with normal bone marrow cells is undertaken.

[0053] The preferred cytotoxic reagents of this invention are at least 100 times, preferably at least 500 times and most preferably at least 1000 times more cytotoxic to target cells, such as bearing a B cell or other appropriate marker as defined herein than a comparison reagent comprised of the same antibody joined to EDN, a human non-toxic RNase.

A. Antibodies To Cell Surface And Other Internalizing Markers

[0054] Antibodies refer to polypeptides substantially encoded by an immunoglobulin gene or immunoglobulin genes, or fragments thereof, which specifically bind and recognize an analyte (antigen). The recognized immunoglobulin genes include the kappa, lambda, alpha, gamma, delta, epsilon and mu constant region genes, as well as the myriad immunoglobulin variable region genes. Light chains are classified as either kappa or lambda. Heavy chains are classified as gamma, mu, alpha, delta, or epsilon, which in turn define the immunoglobulin classes, IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE, respectively.

[0055] An exemplary immunoglobulin (antibody) structural unit comprises a tetramer. Each tetramer is composed of two identical pairs of polypeptide chains, each pair having one "light" (about 25 kD) and one "heavy" chain (about 50-70 kD). The N-terminus of each chain defines a

variable region of about 100 to 110 or more amino acids primarily responsible for antigen recognition. The terms variable light chain (v_L) and variable heavy chain (11_H) refer to these light and heavy chains respectively.

[0056] A variety of methods for producing monoclonal antibodies are known in the art. See, *e.g.*, Goding, MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES; PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, Academic Press, 2nd Edition (1986); and Harlow & Lane. A monoclonal antibody directed against or reactive with human B cells is obtained by using combinations of immunogens to immunize mice and screening hybridoma supernatant against cells which express the desired antigen or by a screening assay designed to be specific for monoclonal antibodies directed against the antigen of interest. Useful cell lines for screening for the antibodies of this invention are readily available or obtained. Such cells include the Burkitt's lymphoma cell lines Daudi, and Raji.

[0057] CD22, a lineage-restricted B-cell antigen belonging to the Ig superfamily, is expressed on the surface of many types of malignant B cells, including but not limited to, acute lymphocytic leukemia (B-ALL), chronic B-lymphocytic cells (B-CLL), B lymphoma cells such as Burkitt's lymphoma, AIDS-associated and follicular lymphomas (*e.g.*, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas), and hairy cell leukemias, as well as on normal mature B lymphocytes. CD22 is not expressed in early stages of B-cell development, nor is it found on the surface of stem cells or terminal stage plasma cells. Vaickus, *et al.*, *Crit. Rev. Oncol/Hematol.* **11**:267-297 (1991). Additionally, no shed antigen is detected in normal human serum or serum from patients with CLL. Li, *et al.*, *Cell. Immunol.* **118**:85-99 (1989).

[0058] CD74, also known as the MHC Class II associated invariant chain (Ii), is found on B cells, T cells, macrophages, monocytes and other MHC Class II positive cells. In addition to the malignant B cells listed above, CD74 is also found on neuroblastoma, melanoma and myeloma cells.

[0059] In addition to antibodies to CD22 and CD74, the present invention encompasses other internalizing antibodies as well, such as those directed against CD19, CD33, CD40, MUC1, IL-15, HLA-DR, EGP-1, EGP-2, G250, PSMA, PSA, PAP, or placental alkaline phosphatase. Certain CD20 and other B-cell lineage antibodies also can target an intracellular epitope, and thus be suitable for this invention. As mentioned above, preferred are antibodies to CD33, an internalizing surface glycoprotein, with expression primarily limited to myeloblasts. An anti-CD33 drug conjugate has been approved for therapy of acute myeloid leukemia. The G250 anti-renal cell carcinoma antibody is also an internalizing antibody appropriate for use in the present conjugates. In addition, the prostate membrane-specific (PSMA) antibodies, as well as antibodies to prostate-specific antigen (PSA) internalize. Prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) antibodies can also internalize. The present invention further includes vascular endothelium and angiogenesis receptor antibodies that internalize.

[0060] Production of monoclonal antibodies directed against, *e.g.*, B cells, is accomplished by: 1) immunization with human B cells followed by screening of the resultant hybridomas for reactivity against a non-human cell line transfected with human B cell antigens constructed in a manner similar to that described in Nishimura, *et al.*, *Eur. J. Immunol.* **18**:747 (1988) which is incorporated by reference herein; 2) immunization with a non-human cell line (preferably autologous to the animal to be immunized)

transfected with human B cell antigens followed by screening of the resultant hybridomas for reactivity against a human B cell line;

3) immunization with human or non-human cell lines expressing human B cell antigens followed by screening of the resultant hybridomas for ability to block reactivity of existing anti-B cell monoclonal antibodies with a human B cell line; 4) immunization with human or non-human cell lines expressing human B cell antigens followed by screening of the resultant hybridomas for reactivity with purified native or recombinant B cell antigens; and 5) immunization with a recombinant derivative of human B cell antigens followed by screening of the resultant hybridomas for reactivity against a human B cell line. Phage-display, gene and chromosome transfection methods for isolating or producing human antibodies are also well known in the art. Upon review of this disclosure, those of skill will realize other methods of raising or isolating antibodies which can be used in this invention.

[0061] Recombinant DNA methodologies are used to synthesize the preferred antibodies of this invention. For example, a preferred antibody portion of an immunotoxin for use in humans is a "humanized" antibody against a B cell antigen which contains only murine complementarity-determining regions (CDRs) combined with human variable region frameworks and human constant regions.

[0062] Humanization techniques are well known in the art. See, for example, PCT published application WO 87/02671; U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567; EP Patent Application 0173494; Jones, *et al.*, *Nature* **321**:522 (1986); and Verhoeyen, *et al.*, *Science* **239**:1534 (1988). Manipulation of the CDR is a way of achieving humanized antibodies. See, for example, Jones, *et al.*, *Nature* **321**:522 (1988) and Riechmann,

et al., *Nature* 332:323 (1988). For a review article concerning humanized antibodies see Winter & Milstein, *Nature* 349:293 (1991).

[0063] In addition to humanized, the antibody moieties of this invention are single chain antibodies. In one aspect of this invention, single chain antibodies are cloned from the parent hybridoma cell lines.

[0064] The Fv regions of monoclonal antibodies are cloned using the same general strategy. Typically, for example, poly(A) + RNA extracted from hybridoma cells is reverse transcribed using random hexamers as primers. The V_H and V_L domains are amplified separately by two polymerase chain reactions (PCR). Heavy chain sequences are amplified using 5' end primers which are designed according to the amino-terminal protein sequences of the heavy chains, and the 3' end primers according to consensus immunoglobulin constant region sequences (Kabat, *et al.*, SEQUENCES OF PROTEINS OF IMMUNOLOGICAL INTEREST, 5TH ED., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD (1991). Light chain Fv regions are amplified using 5' end primers designed according to the amino-terminal protein sequences of the light chains and in combination with the primer C-kappa. One of skill in the art will recognize other suitable primers may be used.

[0065] The crude PCR products are subcloned into suitable cloning vectors which are well known to those of skill in the art and commercially available. Clones containing the correct size DNA insert are identified, for example, agarose gel electrophoresis. The nucleotide sequence of the heavy or light chain coding regions is then determined from double stranded plasmid DNA using the sequencing primers adjacent to the

cloning site. Commercially available kits (e.g., the Sequenase® kit, United States Biochemical Corp., Cleveland, OH) are used to facilitate sequencing the DNA.

[0066] One of skill will appreciate that, utilizing the sequence information provided for the Fv regions, nucleic acids encoding these sequences are obtained using a number of methods well known to those of skill in the art. Thus, DNA encoding the Fv regions is prepared by any suitable method, including, for example, amplification techniques such as ligase chain reaction (LCR) (see Wu & Wallace, *Genomics* 4:560 (1989), Landegren, *et al.*, *Science* 241:1077 (1988) and Barringer, *et al.*, *Gene* 89:117 (1990)), transcription amplification (see Kwok, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat 'l Acad. Sci. USA* 86:1173 (1989)), and self-sustained sequence replication (see Guatelli, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat 'l Acad. Sci. USA* 87:1874 (1990)), cloning and restriction of appropriate sequences or direct chemical synthesis by methods such as the phosphotriester method of Narang, *et al.*, *Meth. Enzymol.* 68:90 (1979); the phosphodiester method of Brown, *et al.*, *Meth. Enzymol.* 68:109 (1979); the diethylphosphoramidite method of Beaucage, *et al.*, *Tetra. Lett.* 22:1859 (1981); and the solid support method of U.S. Patent No. 4,458,066.

[0067] The nucleic acid sequences which encode the single chain antibodies are identified by techniques well known in the art (see, Sambrook, *et al.*). Briefly, the DNA products described above are separated on an electrophoretic gel. The contents of the gel are transferred to a suitable membrane (e.g., Hybond-N®, Amersham) and hybridized to a suitable probe under stringent conditions. The probe should comprise a nucleic acid sequence of a fragment embedded within the desired sequence.

[0068] If the DNA sequence is synthesized chemically, a single stranded oligonucleotide will result. This may be converted into double stranded DNA by hybridization with a complementary sequence, or by polymerization with a DNA polymerase using the single strand as a template. While it is possible to chemically synthesize an entire single chain Fv region, it is preferable to synthesize a number of shorter sequences (about 100 to 150 bases) that are later ligated together.

[0069] Alternatively, subsequences may be cloned and the appropriate subsequences cleaved using appropriate restriction enzymes. The fragments may then be ligated to produce the desired DNA sequence.

[0070] Once the Fv variable light and heavy chain DNA is obtained, the sequences may be ligated together, either directly or through a DNA sequence encoding a peptide linker, using techniques well known to those of skill in the art. Thus, the entire sequence encodes the Fv domain in the form of a single chain antibody.

[0071] Alternatively, antibodies directed against B cells, for example, are commercially available from suppliers of immunological reagents (for example, Ancell Corp., Bayport, MN (RFB4); Becton Dickinson, San Jose, CA; The Binding Site, Inc., San Diego, CA; CalTag Laboratories, South San Francisco, CA; Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN; Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ; and Zymed, Foster City, CA). RFB4 is a preferred antibody of this invention which has surprising efficacy when compared to other antibodies. It has been characterized and is described in Mansfield, *et al.*, *Bioconj. Chem.* 7:557 (1996); Mansfield, *et al.*, *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* 25:709 (1997); and Mansfield, *et al.*, *Blood*

90:2020 (1997); all of which are incorporated in this disclosure in their entirety.

[0072] Preferred antibodies of this invention include M195, G250, LL1, LL2, PAM4, RS7, RS11, and 17-1A. hLL2 is a humanized monoclonal antibody that recognizes and specifically binds to CD22 on human B cells. The murine and humanized LL2 antibodies were provided by Immunomedics, Inc. (Morris Plains, NJ).

B. Cytotoxic Agent

[0073] The ribonucleases of this invention can be isolated from members of the genus *Rana*. This application discloses, for example, a new use for the onc protein from *Rana pipiens*. The *Rana pipiens* onc protein is a substantially pure protein derived from the eggs and/or embryos of *Rana pipiens* having a molecular weight of about 12,000 Daltons by mass spectrometry, and an isoelectric point of between 9.5 and 10.5. It is also exemplified by a product sometimes referred to herein by the trade name ONCONASE®, available from Alfacell Corporation, Bloomfield, NJ.

[0074] The onc proteins are proteins having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

[0075] The onc protein used in this invention is unique compared to other RNases used in immunotoxin construction because it is a monomeric member of the pancreatic RNase family and is toxic to certain cancer cells without an internalizing ligand (see U.S. Patent No. 5,559,212). However, it is a discovery of this invention that, when

conjugated to an antibody directed to a B cell, the cytotoxicity of the onc protein dramatically increases up to as much as 2,000 fold. In spite of the cytotoxicity to cancer cells, patient toxicity and immunogenicity are expected to be low because of the efficiency of this particular immunotoxin and the small size of the toxin.

[0076] It will be understood by those of skill in the art that SEQ ID NO:1 may be altered in a manner that does not substantially affect the functional advantages of the sequence provided here. For example, glycine and alanine are typically considered to be interchangeable as are aspartic acid and glutamic acid and asparagine and glutamine. Any such modification in which the functional advantages of the sequence are maintained are intended to be covered by the sequence described in SEQ ID NO:1.

[0077] An exemplary recombinant onc protein described and claimed herein is defined as comprising SEQ ID NO:2. The recombinant onc proteins of this invention have similar measurable ribonucleolytic activity compared to native onc protein. However, one of skill in the art will recognize that many different variations of onc sequences will encode onc proteins with roughly the same measurable ribonucleolytic activity as native onc protein.

[0078] For a description of preferred recombinant onc proteins, variants of recombinant onc proteins, and techniques for synthesizing recombinant onc proteins, see PCT published application WO 97/31116 which is incorporated by reference herein.

[0079] Other ribonucleases are contemplated as within the scope of the above definition of "moiety having ribonucleolytic activity." For example, SEQ ID NO:4 represents the amino acid sequence of *rapLR1*, an RNase which is also derived from *Rana pipiens*. Preferred embodiments and variants thereof are set forth in U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/622,613, filed August 17, 2000, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In addition to ribonucleases derived from *Rana pipiens*, this invention also encompasses ribonucleases – such as *racOR1* – derived from *Rana catesbeiana* oocytes as described in, and incorporated by reference herein from, U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/622,613. Still other ribonucleases contemplated include recombinant vertebrate ribonucleases such as frog and mammalian RNases. The ribonucleases of this invention are also intended to encompass natural and synthetic polypeptides, as well as fragments of ribonucleases that exhibit ribonucleolytic activity.

C. Immunotoxins

[0080] The toxic moiety and the antibody may be conjugated by chemical or by recombinant means (see, Rybak, *et al.*, *Tumor Targeting* 1:141 (1995)). Chemical modifications include, for example, derivitization for the purpose of linking the moieties to each other, either directly or through a linking compound, by methods that are well known in the art of protein chemistry. In the presently preferred chemical conjugation embodiment, the means of linking the toxic moiety and the recognition moiety comprises a heterobifunctional coupling reagent which ultimately contributes to formation of an intermolecular disulfide bond between the two moieties. Other types of coupling reagents that are useful in this capacity for the present invention are described, for example, in U.S. Patent 4,545,985. Alternatively, an intermolecular

disulfide may conveniently be formed between cysteines in each moiety which occur naturally or are inserted by genetic engineering. The means of linking moieties may also use thioether linkages between heterobifunctional crosslinking reagents or specific low pH cleavable crosslinkers or specific protease cleavable linkers or other cleavable or noncleavable chemical linkages. The means of linking moieties of the immunotoxins may also comprise a peptidyl bond formed between moieties which are separately synthesized by standard peptide synthesis chemistry or recombinant means.

[0081] Possible chemical modifications of the protein moieties of the present invention also include derivitization with polyethylene glycol (PEG) or other polymers (such as dextran) to extend time of residence in the circulatory system and reduce immunogenicity, according to well known methods (See for example, Lisi, *et al.*, *Applied Biochem.* **4**:19 (1982); Beauchamp, *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* **131**:25 (1982); and Goodson, *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* **8**:343 (1990)).

[0082] Possible genetic engineering modifications of the proteins of the immunotoxins include combination of the relevant functional domains of each into a single chain multi-functional biosynthetic protein expressed from a single gene derived by recombinant DNA techniques. (See, for example, PCT published application WO/88/09344). Furthermore, recombinant DNA techniques can be used to link the recombinant onc protein and the antibody. Accordingly, the immunotoxin can comprise a fused protein beginning at one end with the onc protein and ending with the antibody.

[0083] Methods of producing recombinant fusion proteins are well known to those of skill in the art. Thus, for example, Chaudhary, *et al.*, *Nature* **339**:394 (1989); Batra, *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* **265**:15198 (1990); Batra, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **86**:8545 (1989); Chaudhary, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **87**:1066 (1990), all incorporated by reference, describe the preparation of various single chain antibody-toxin fusion proteins.

[0084] In general, producing immunotoxin fusion proteins involves separately preparing the Fv light and heavy chains and DNA encoding the onc protein to be used. The two sequences are combined in a plasmid or other vector to form a construct encoding the particular desired fusion protein. A simpler approach involves inserting the DNA encoding the particular Fv region into a construct already encoding the desired onc protein.

[0085] Thus, for example, DNA encoding anti-B cell single chain antibody/onc protein immunotoxins is most easily prepared by inserting the DNA encoding the antibody V_H and V_L chains (Fv region) into constructs already containing DNA encoding the desired onc protein or vice versa. The DNA sequence encoding the Fv region is inserted into the construct using techniques well known to those of skill in the art.

[0086] Mammalian cells have been used to express and secrete hybrid molecules such as antibody-cytokines (Hoogenboom, *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Acta* **1096**:345 (1991); Hoogenboom, *et al.*, *Mol. Immunol.* **28**:1027 (1991)) and antibody-enzyme (Casadei, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **87**:2047 (1990); Williams, *et al.*, *Gene* **43**:3 19 (1986)). In part, immunogenicity of foreign proteins is due to incorrect glycosylation

patterns present on recombinant proteins. Therefore, eukaryotic cell lines are preferred over prokaryotic cells as the expressed proteins are glycosylated. Human derived cell lines are particularly preferred in that these cells incorporate a sialic acid as the terminal glycoside. Cell lines such as the hamster CHO and BHK, as well as the HEK-293 human fibroblast line have been used to express recombinant human proteins.

[0087] Other genetic engineering modifications of the protein moieties of the immunotoxins of this invention include deletions of functionally unnecessary domains to reduce the size of the protein or to modify other parameters which facilitate production or utility, such as sequence changes to affect the solubility (e.g., cysteine to serine) or glycosylation sites. One skilled in the art would appreciate that many additional well known chemical and genetic modifications of proteins may be advantageously applied to any protein which, like the present cytotoxic reagent, is intended for parenteral administration.

[0088] Preferred immunotoxins of the present invention are fusion proteins containing as the toxic moiety a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a humanized antibody that binds a specific cell surface marker on the cell of interest (more preferably against B cells). The construction of this unique genetic linkage of the fusion protein between the onc protein and the antibody eliminates the heterogeneity of chemically linked antibody/onc protein conjugates. This, it is believed, may contribute to the increased potency and decreased immunogenicity of the immunotoxin.

[0089] The invention includes nucleic acid constructs that encode the novel proteins described here. A nucleic acid construct is one which,

when incorporated into an appropriate vector, is capable of replicating in a host. The constructs may be linked to other sequences capable of affecting the expression of the construct, such as promoters and enhancers.

[0090] The immunotoxin of the present invention may be utilized for the selective killing of tumor or certain normal cells. This method is based on the appropriate selection of an antibody that binds to cell surface or intracellular markers found specifically or predominantly on the type of cell that is to be selectively killed. For example, the immunotoxin of this invention includes those comprising an antibody that binds to a tumor cell-specific surface marker, of which many are known in the art. In the preferred embodiment for a human application, the antibody is a humanized single chain protein, or a modified form thereof, which preferentially binds B-cells, indicating B-cell malignancy. Other embodiments include immunotoxins comprising antibodies associated with T-cells, myeloid cells, and plasma cells of hematologic malignancies, and antibodies against diverse solid cancers, such as neuroblastoma, malignant melanoma, breast, ovarian, prostate, lung, kidney, and pancreas cancers.

D. Pharmaceutical Compositions

[0091] The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising immunotoxins of the present invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In therapeutic applications, compositions are administered to a patient suffering from a disease, in an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially arrest the disease and its complications. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as a therapeutically effective dose. Amounts effective for this use will depend

on the severity of the disease and the general state of the patient's health.

[0092] Advantageously, the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for parenteral administration. The immunotoxins of the present invention may be administered by various means appropriate for different purposes, for example, for treating tumors in various parts of the body, according to methods known in the art for other immunotoxins. (See, for example, Rybak, et al., Human Cancer Immunology, in IMMUNOLOGY AND ALLERGY CLINICS OF AMERICA, W. B. Saunders, 1990, and references cited therein). Accordingly, the present invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising an immunotoxin of this invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, particularly such compositions which are suitable for the above means of administration.

[0093] Single or multiple administrations of the compositions may be administered depending on the dosage and frequency as required and tolerated by the patient. In any event, the composition should provide a sufficient quantity of the proteins of this invention to effectively treat the patient.

[0094] Preferably, the compositions for administration will commonly comprise a solution of the fusion protein comprising the single chain antibody and the onc protein dissolved in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, preferably an aqueous carrier. A variety of aqueous carriers can be used, e.g., buffered saline and the like. These solutions are sterile and generally free of undesirable matter. These compositions may be sterilized by conventional, well known sterilization techniques. The compositions may contain pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substances as required

to approximate physiological conditions such as pH adjusting and buffering agents, toxicity adjusting agents and the like, for example, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride, sodium lactate and the like. The concentration of fusion protein in these formulations can vary widely, and will be selected primarily based on fluid volumes, viscosities, body weight and the like in accordance with the particular mode of administration selected and the patient's needs.

[0095] Thus, a typical pharmaceutical composition for intravenous administration would be about 0.01 to 100 mg per patient per day. Dosages from 0.1 up to about 1000 mg per patient per day may be used, particularly when the drug is administered to a secluded site and not into the blood stream, such as into a tumor or an organ within which a tumor resides. Actual methods for preparing parenterally administrable compositions will be known or apparent to those skilled in the art and are described in more detail in such publications as REMINGTON'S PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE, 15TH ED., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, (1980).

[0096] Further, the present invention relates to a method of selectively killing cells using a selective immunotoxin of the present invention having an antibody specific for a target on the surface or intracellular target of the cells to be killed under conditions allowing binding of the antibody. Binding of the antibody to the surface or intracellular marker on or in a cell causes the ribonuclease of the reagent to selectively kill the cell. This method of the present invention may be used for cell separation in vitro by selectively killing unwanted types of cells, for example, in bone marrow prior to transplantation into a patient undergoing marrow ablation by radiation, such as against a CD33 myeloid antigen, or against antigens

associated with normal cells and tissues which are growing ectopically in the body, such as endometriosis, or also against normal B and T cells involved in the development and progression of certain autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, immune thrombocytopenic purpura, and Sjögren's syndrome.

EXAMPLES

[0097] In the following non-limiting examples, the present invention is exemplified by an immunotoxin in which the toxic moiety is ONCONASE® and the antibodies recognize tumor cells, in particular, B cells.

[0098] Example 1: Production of Native and Recombinant Onc Protein from *Rana pipiens*

A. Isolation and Purification of Native Onc Protein

[0099] Techniques describing the isolation of oocytes from *Rana pipiens*, *in vitro* fertilization of the eggs, and the isolation and purification of native onc protein from frog embryos are exquisitely detailed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,559,212 and 5,728,805, which are both incorporated by reference herein.

B. Production and Assaying of Recombinant Onc Protein

[0100] The production of recombinant onc protein was done as described in WO 97/31116. Ribonucleolytic activity using high molecular weight RNA and tRNA was determined following published protocols, Newton, *et al.*, *J. Neurosci.* **14**:538 (1994) at 37°C through the formation of perchloric acid soluble nucleotides (see, Newton, *et al.*, *Biochem.* **35**:545 (1996)). With poly (A,C), UpG, and poly U, ribonuclease

activity was assayed spectrophotometrically according to Libonati, *et al.*, *Biochim. et Biophys. Acta* **788**:356 (1984), and Libonati & Floridi, *Eur. J. Biochem.* **8**:81 (1969). Briefly, activity was assayed by measuring the increase in absorbance at 260 nm. Incubation mixtures (1 mL of 10mM imidazole, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 6.5 or pH 7) contained substrate and appropriate amounts of enzyme solution at 25°C. The *in vitro* translation assay (St. Clair, *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* **84**:8330 (1987)), and the cell viability assays (Pearson, *et al.*, *J. Nat'l Cancer Inst.* **83**:1386 (1991)), using the MTT method of Mossman were performed as previously described.

[0101] Example 2: Chemical Analysis and Composition of Onc Proteins

[0102] The native onc protein described above has been well characterized chemically. To be as fully functional as the native onc protein, it is believed the recombinant onc protein should have the chemistry and structure as described below.

[0103] The native onc protein was purified to homogeneity (as established by standard tests used to assay the homogeneity of proteins). By electrophoresis, the molecular weight of the native onc protein was determined to be approximately 14,500 Daltons. Calculation of the molecular weight based upon the listed amino acid sequence (see, *infra*), indicated the molecular weight of native onc protein should be 11,860 Daltons. However, because metal ions may have bonded to the protein despite all efforts to remove them, and because different isotopes may be involved, the molecular weight of the native onc protein was 12,430 Daltons as determined by mass spectroscopy. In view of this discrepancy,

the molecular weight of the pharmaceutical as determined by mass spectrometry was considered to be approximately 12,000 Daltons. The isoelectric point (pI) of native onc protein was found to be between about 9.5 and 10.5, as determined by isoelectric focussing. The amino terminal group of native onc protein was blocked and was found to be essentially free of carbohydrates (as determined by anthrone and orcinol methods).

[0104] Table 1 indicates the amino acid composition of the native onc protein.

Table 1: Amino Acid Analysis of Native Onc Protein

AMINO ACID RESIDUE	% MOL (24 HOUR ACID HYDROLYSIS)
Aspartic acid/Asparagine	13.99
Threonine	9.30 (Note 1)
Serine	7.78
Glutamic acid/Glutamine	6.10
Proline	4.36
Glycine	3.09
Alanine	3.09
Cysteine/2	6.92 (Note 1)
Valine	8.20
Methionine	0.85 (Note 1)
Isoleucine	4.86 (Note 2)
Leucine	5.22
Tyrosine	2.96
Phenylalanine	6.05
Histidine	2.88
Lysine	11.62

Arginine	2.70
Tryptophan	Not Determined (Note 3)
Approximate Total	99.97%

[0105] Note 1: Threonine, cysteine/2 and methionine are partially destroyed during hydrolysis and this value is uncorrected for such partial destruction.

[0106] Note 2: This value is uncorrected for incomplete hydrolysis.

[0107] Note 3: Tryptophan cannot be detected in acid hydrolysis of proteins because it is destroyed and is consequently shown as Not Determined. However, analysis of the ultraviolet spectrum revealed the presence of one tryptophan residue per molecule.

[0108] Table 2: Amino Acid Composition (as calculated from amino acid sequence)

<u>AMINO ACID</u>	<u>APPROX. # OF RESIDUES (PER MOLECULE OF NATIVE ONC PROTEIN)</u>
Aspartic acid	6
Asparagine	8
Threonine	10
Serine	8
Glutamic acid	3
Pyroglutamic acid	1
Glutamine	2
Proline	4

Glycine	3
Alanine	3
Cysteine/2	8
Valine	8
Methionine	1
Isoleucine	6
Leucine	5
Tyrosine	3
Phenylalanine	6
Histidine	3
Lysine	12
Arginine	3
Tryptophan	1
Approximate Total	104

[0109] The native onc protein has been sequenced. The N-terminus of the native protein is pyroglutamic acid (<Glu). This is a cyclized derivative of glutamic acid which is devoid of the free amino group necessary for direct sequencing and which therefore "blocks" the N-terminus of the protein. The amino terminus of the molecule has been altered to facilitate recombinant production of the molecule as set out in previously cited WO 97/31116. The preferred amino acid sequence of the cytotoxic RNase is shown as SEQ ID NO:1.

[0110] Example 3: ANTI-CD22-ONCONASE® IMMUNOTOXIN

A. MATERIALS AND METHODS

[0111] ONCONASE® (previously named P-30) was provided by Alfacell Corp. as a lyophilized protein and was dissolved in phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Stock solutions of at least 1 mg/mL were kept frozen at -20° C until dilutions were prepared for assays. All other reagents were purchased from sources previously described (Rybak, *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* **266**:21202 (1991); Newton, *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* **267**:19572 (1992); Mikulski, *et al.*, *Cell Tissue Kinet.* **23**:237 (1990)), herein incorporated by reference.

[0112] LL2 is a murine monoclonal antibody that recognizes and specifically binds to CD22 on human B cells. The LL2 antibody was provided by Immunomedics, Inc. (Morris Plains, NJ). RFB4 is also a murine monoclonal antibody that binds to CD22. This antibody is available from many sources, including Ancell Corp.

[0113] Three Burkitt lymphoma cell lines (Daudi (ATCC CCL 213), CA 46 (ATCC CRL 1648), and Raji (ATCC CCL86)) were grown in RPMI 1640 media containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), 2 mM glutamine, 1 mM sodium pyruvate, and 10 µg/mL gentamicin. HUT 102, a human cutaneous T cell lymphoma cell line (ATCC TIB 162) was also grown in supplemented RPMI medium. All cells were incubated at 37°C in a 5% CO2 humidified atmosphere.

B. PREPARATION OF LL2-ONCONASE® IMMUNOTOXINS

[0114] Disulfide linked conjugates were prepared as described in Newton, *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, **267**:19572 (1992), with the following modifications. Antibody (12.5 nmol) was incubated with 250 nmol 2-iminothiolane and 2.5 mM 5,5'-dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB) in 100 mM sodium borate, pH 8.5, at room temperature for 1 hour in a final

[illegible]

[0115] Thioether-linked conjugates were prepared according to Rybak, *et al.*, *Drug Delivery* 1:3 (1993) and Newton, *et al.*, *Int'l J. Oncology* 8:1095 (1996) using m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS). Briefly, LL2 antibody (2 mg) was incubated with a 5-fold molar excess of MBS (stock solution, 30 mM in DMF) for 10 min at room temperature. The reaction contents were applied to a PD-10® column equilibrated with Buffer A. Peak fractions (1.5 mL) were pooled. The SPDP-modified ONCONASE® was dialyzed against 0.1 M sodium acetate, pH 4.5, containing 0.1 M NaCl, followed by incubation with 25 mM DTT (final concentration) for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction contents were applied to a PD-10® column equilibrated with Buffer A and the peak fractions pooled and added to the MBS antibody. The reaction was incubated at room temperature overnight. The ONCONASE® was present in a ≥ 10 fold molar excess over antibody. The conjugates were separated from unreacted ONCONASE® by gel filtration on a TSK-3000® HPLC column (Toso-Haas).

[0116] The amount of protein present in the preparations was determined by UV spectroscopy following Beer's Law: $[A = \epsilon(\text{conc.})]$ with the following extinction coefficients at 277 nm: ONCONASE®, ϵ (1%) = 7.3; and immunotoxins, ϵ (1%) = 10.

[0117] The moles of ONCONASE® conjugated to antibody was determined by gel electrophoresis of the reduced immunotoxins along with standards of ONCONASE® and antibody. The gel was analyzed using Image (NIH public domain software).

[0118] Analysis of ONCONASE® immunotoxins by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions demonstrated the component proteins were regenerated after reduction. Under non-reducing conditions, the antibody conjugates consisted of multiple high molecular weight forms. The reactivity of the cross-linker groups in the thiol-disulfide interchange reaction may explain the heterogeneity of the conjugate. The immunotoxins contained 1-2 moles of ONCONASE®/mol of antibody. The purified immunotoxins did not, by gel electrophoresis, appear to contain significant amounts of free antibody, presumably because the ≥ 10 fold molar excess of ONCONASE® yielded essentially all immunotoxin and no free antibody.

C. PREPARATION Of RFB4-ONCONASE® IMMUNOTOXINS

[0119] RFB4-ONCONASE® immunotoxins are prepared as described above. Because RFB4 recognizes CD22, immunotoxins which contain RFB4 are also cytotoxic to malignant B cells. Thus, the experiments described below can be performed with RFB4-ONCONASE® as well.

[0120] Example 4: IN VITRO CELL VIABILITY STUDIES

[0121] Protein synthesis was measured as described in Rybak, *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* **266**:2 1202 (1991). The same protocol was used to measure RNA synthesis, except the cells were pulsed with 3 μ Ci of [3 H]uridine. Cell number was determined by a direct count with a hemocytometer. An aliquot of cells was incubated for 5 min with an equal volume of 0.5% Trypan Blue exclusion dye and viable cells were scored. The MTT colorimetric assay (Mossman, T., *J. Immunol. Methods* **65**:55 (1983)) was performed as described (Mikulski, *et al.*, *Cell Tissue Kinet.* **23**:237 (1990)).

[0122] 1. The IC₅₀ for protein synthesis inhibition in Burkitt lymphoma cells by ONCONASE®-immunotoxins is presented in Table 4.

Table 4a: Protein Synthesis Inhibition by ONCONASE®-Immunotoxins

Cell Line	IC ₅₀	
	ONCONASE®	LL2-ONCONASE®
Daudi	> 200 nM	100 pM
CA 46	> 200 nM	800 pM
Raji	> 200 nM	800 pM
HUT 102	30 nM	> 100 nM

[0123] The concentrations of immunotoxin required to inhibit protein synthesis 50% in B cells after 24 hours are in the picomolar range compared to the nanomolar range for unconjugated ONCONASE®. HUT 102 cells, which do not express CD22, were not sensitive to the LL2-ONCONASE® immunotoxin but were more sensitive to the unconjugated ONCONASE® than the B-cell lines. See Figure 1.

[0124] As can be seen in Figure 2, ONCONASE® alone was not cytotoxic to B-lymphoma cells after 24 h compared to ONCONASE® conjugated to the LL2 antibody. Thus, ONCONASE® conjugated to antibodies capable of internalization was more potent than the unconjugated ONCONASE®.

[0125] In addition to being more effective than ONCONASE® alone, Figures 3 and 4 demonstrate the ONCONASE® immunotoxins were much more effective than immunotoxins in which the toxic moiety was either a human non-toxic RNase, eosinophil-derived neurotoxin (EDN) (Figure 5) or a human pancreatic RNase (Figure 6).

[0126] In Figure 5, LL2 or LL1 antibodies were conjugated to EDN as described above and assayed on Daudi or CA 46 Burkitt's lymphoma cells. It is believed that LL1 and LL2 immunotoxins are delivered to the lysosomes where the immunotoxin is degraded to the antibody and RNase moieties. The RNase leaves the lysosome and enters the cytosol where it interferes with ribosomal activity. From the data shown in Figure 5, it is postulated that ONCONASE® is about 2,000 fold more active than EDN because ONCONASE® is not inactivated by degradation by the lysosome. Therefore, the protein that enters the cytosol is an intact cytotoxin.

[0127] In Figure 6, LL2-ONCONASE® was compared to LL2-pancreatic RNase. Again, at concentrations of about 1 nM, LL2-ONCONASE® completely blocked protein synthesis. At the same concentration, only about 75% of protein synthesis had been blocked by the addition of LL2-pancreatic RNase.

[0128] To test the hypothesis that ONCONASE® was not degraded by the lysosomes leading to increased inhibition of protein synthesis and cytotoxicity, ¹²⁵I-labeled LL2 and LL2 immunotoxins were added to Daudi cells. As can be seen in Figure 7, after the indicated time span, cells treated with LL2-ONCONASE® contained more ¹²⁵I-labeled protein in their lysates, indicating the immunotoxin was degraded at a slower rate than LL2-EDN and LL2 alone. Thus, it would appear that ONCONASE® is not degraded in the lysosomes.

[0129] To test the hypothesis that CD22 mediates the toxicity of ONCONASE® immunotoxins via binding of the antibody portion of the hybrid protein, the immunotoxins were assayed in the presence of excess LL2 antibody (Fig. 6). The cytotoxicity observed in Daudi cells after 24 h in the presence of the ONCONASE® immunotoxins was reversed by an equimolar amount of LL2. These data show that CD22 can mediate ONCONASE® cytotoxicity to Burkitt lymphoma cells.

[0130] 2. Antibody-onconase Conjugates. In another series of experiments different permutations of conjugates between three mAbs (LL1 [class II invariant chain], LL2, and 5E9 [anti-transferrin receptor antibody]) and two RNase superfamily toxins (onconase and EDN) were tested on a panel of cell lines that included three B-lymphoma cell lines (Daudi, Raji, CA-46), MDA-MB-231, a breast cancer line, and HuT 102, a human T cell line. Dose response curves were done with the readout being protein synthesis as assessed by ³H-leucine incorporation. Cells were plated in the presence of an absence of mAb, toxin or conjugate, cultured for 16 hours and then pulsed with 1 µCi/well of label. Incorporation was measured by harvesting the cells onto a type B glass fiber filter, followed by scintillation counting. As shown in Table 4b, LL2-

onconase had the lowest IC₅₀ values of all the conjugates tested. Toxicity of onconase-based immunotoxins on B lymphoma cell line, Daudi, was further demonstrated with conjugates of onconase and LL2. LL2 is an antibody to CD22, an efficiently internalizing antigen. Both whole IgG and Fab' conjugates were prepared and were found to inhibit B lymphoma cell line (Daudi) in the subnanomolar range. The effect was shown to be dependent on the CD22 reactivity of the conjugate, since inhibitory effects are nearly eliminated by excess cold antibody.

[0131] Table 4b: Cytotoxicity of Onconase and EDN Conjugates vs. Component Proteins (IC₅₀/pM)

Cell Line	LL2-Onc	LL1-Onc	Onc	LL2	LL2-EDN	5
Daudi	100		> 200,000	> 23000	> 43000	
CA-46	800	2300	> 200,000	> 23000	> 43000	
Raji	800		> 200,000	> 23000		
Hut-102	> 40,000		37,000			
MDA-MB-0231						1

[0132] Example 5: IN VIVO EFFICACY OF LL2-ONCONASE® IMMUNOTOXINS

[0133] To test the effect of LL2-ONCONASE® *in vivo*, Daudi cells were implanted into SCID mice. One day later, the mice were treated with ONCONASE® and LL2-ONCONASE®, LL2-Pseudomonas exotoxin and LL2-doxorubicin immunotoxins.

[0134] As can be seen in Table 5, LL2-ONCONASE® did not cause cytotoxic side effects (death) in mice. As a comparison, the mice were treated as well with LL2 conjugated to a mutant of domain II of Pseudomonas exotoxin. As can be seen, this immunotoxin was lethal. Thus, it appears that ONCONASE® as the toxic moiety of an immunotoxin is not toxic to the treated animal and therefore would be tolerated better as a therapeutic.

[0135] Table 5: *In vivo* Cytotoxicity of LL2-ONCONASE Immunotoxins

Dose Schedule	Toxicity in Mice	
	Total Dose (µg)	Death/Total
LL2-PE3 8KDEL *		
80 µg i.p. x 1	80	2/2
35 µg i.p.QDx4	140	2/2
LL2-ONCONASE		
100 µg i.p x 1	100	0/3
100 µg i.p. QODx5	500	0/3
100 µg i.p.QDx5	500	0/3
500 µg i.p. x 1	500	0/3

* Kreitman, *et al.*, *Cancer Res.* 53:819 (1993)

QD = daily

QOD = every other day

[0136] Table 6 shows the effects of LL2-ONCONASE® and LL2-doxorubicin on Daudi-implanted SCID mice. The mice were implanted with 5×10^6 Daudi cells intravenously. 24 hours later, treatment began with 5 equal doses daily. The doxorubicin immunotoxin was injected intravenously and the ONCONASE® immunotoxin was injected

intraperitoneally. As can be seen, by weight, almost one half the amount of LL2-ONCONASE® significantly enhanced the survival of the mice compared to the doxorubicin, a systemic chemotherapeutic reagent.

[0137] Table 6: Treatment in SCID Mice with Disseminated Daudi Lymphoma

Immunotoxin	Total Dose	% of Mice with Enhanced Survival Relative to Antibody Alone
LL2-doxorubicin	9000 µg	0
LL2-ONCONASE®	500 µg	40%

[0138] In SCID mice implanted intravenously with 5×10^6 Daudi B lymphoma cells, LL2-ONCONASE® injected intraperitoneally proved to prolong the lives of the mice compared to mice treated with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) or with monoclonal antibody LL2 alone. Figure 7 shows that all animals treated with PBS developed severe B-cell lymphoma and were sacrificed by day 35. All of the animals treated with LL2 were sacrificed by day 37 due to lymphoma. On the other hand, all of the animals treated with the immunotoxin survived through day 37. The last animal treated with immunotoxin was sacrificed on day 46.

[0139] Figure 8 shows that SCID mice implanted intraperitoneally with 2×10^6 Daudi cells and then treated with 500 µg LL2-ONCONASE® intraperitoneally, 100 µg per dose per day, survived for over 100 days. The cohort of animals treated with PBS, and unconjugated LL2 and ONCONASE® showed some indication of disease within that time frame. The mean time of survival for the PBS control group was 71 days, for the

LL2 + ONCONASE®, the mean time for survival was 80 days and the LL2-ONCONASE® treated mice survived longer than 112 days.

[0140] Finally, Figure 9 indicates that LL2-ONCONASE® is less toxic than ONCONASE® alone or RFB4-deglycosylated Ricin A chain. Compared to a lethal dose of 30 mg/kg ONCONASE®, the mouse treated with 300 mg/kg LL2-ONCONASE® not only survived but gained weight during the course of the experiment. RFB4, when conjugated to a *Pseudomonas* exotoxin fragment, had an LD50 of 1 mg/kg in a murine model wherein the immunotoxin was given only once per day (Mansfield, *et al.*, *Bioconj. Chem.* 7:557 (1996)).

[0141] These *in vivo* results indicate that LL2-ONCONASE® is a superior B cell toxin compared to ONCONASE® alone, LL2 alone and immunotoxins of LL2-*Pseudomonas* exotoxin and LL2-doxorubicin. The toxicity studies show that LL2-ONCONASE® is tolerated well with little, if any, side effects.

[0142] Example 6: *IN VIVO* Efficacy of LL2-rapLR1 Immunotoxin

[0143] Intermolecular disulfide bond(s) between rapLR1 and LL2 were formed by reacting rapLR1 derivatized with the heterobifunctional cross-linking reagent, SPDP, with 2-iminothiolane-treated antibody.

[0144] Mice tolerated the resulting LL2-rapLR1 conjugate in injected doses of up to 600 mg/kg 4 times per day for 5 days, thereby demonstrating low levels of non-specific toxicity of the LL2-rapLR1 conjugate. The lifespan of mice injected with Daudi tumor cells increased

by 100% when injected one day later with the LL2-*rap*LR1 conjugate (i.p.) as compared to mice who were injected with only the delivery vehicle.

[0145] All publications, including patents and patent applications, mentioned herein above are hereby incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each was individually incorporated by reference.

[0146] The foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity and understanding. It will also be obvious that various combinations in form and detail can be made without departing from the scope of the invention.

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